

**Wally
Herger**
Congressman

2nd District - California



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Herger Hails Passage of Measures to Honor and Support Our Troops

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Congressman Wally Herger (CA-02) last evening voted for H.R. 5037, the "Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act," and H.R. 1499, the "Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities Act." The House passed the measures, both of which Herger cosponsored. H.R. 5037 would keep protestors at least 500 feet away from the funerals of fallen military service members. H.R. 1499 would enable service members to divert their combat pay to an Individual Retirement Account. Herger had the following reaction to passage of these measures:

"The men and women who have given their lives in defense of our nation should be buried with solemn dignity," Herger stated. "Radical protestors who taunt our fallen troops' loved ones and hold signs such as 'Thank God for Dead Soldiers' commit one of the greatest affronts to human decency imaginable, and their conduct should not be tolerated.

"I'm very pleased that the House has passed the Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act, which would crack down on this repugnant conduct and help ensure that our fallen heroes are buried with the deepest respect and that their families can grieve in peace."

H.R. 5037 would prohibit demonstrations within five hundred feet of the funeral for a fallen service member one hour before and after it occurs, and would prohibit unauthorized demonstrations at Arlington National Cemetery and other national cemeteries. It would establish penalties of a fine or imprisonment of up to one year for violators of the act. The measure now awaits consideration in the Senate.

H.R. 1499 would amend the tax code to allow members of the Armed Services to include their combat pay as earned income for the purpose of determining the amount of deductible income they can contribute to retirement savings plans. The Senate has already passed this measure, and President Bush is expected to sign it into law.

Herger continued, "The Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities Act would help military personnel more easily save for retirement by allowing them to direct combat pay to an Individual Retirement Account. Our service members place their health and lives in jeopardy. It only makes sense that combat pay be eligible for IRA contribution purposes."

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!

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